

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CSCE, SOPN, PFOR, CZ

SUBJECT: CZECH VISA REFUSAL TO LA TIMES CORRESPONDENT

WE UNDERSTAND FROM WASHINGTON OFFICE OF LOS ANGELES TIMES THAT MURRAY SEEGER HAS BEEN DENIED A VISA BY THE CZECHOSLOVAK EMBASSY IN BONN TO ENTER CSSR TO ACCOMPANY LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA. APPLICATION WAS MADE ABOUT TEN DAYS AGO, WITH REFUSAL CONFIRMED DECEMBER 1 OR 2. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND CZECHOSLOVAK EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WAS INFORMED OF SEEGER'S PLANS SEVERAL DAYS AGO AND GAVE NO INDICATION THAT THERE WOULD BE A PROBLEM.

2. FOR BONN: WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR OBTAINING CONFIRMATION OF ABOVE FROM SEEGER AND REPORTING BACKASAP.

3. FOR PRAGUE: IF SEEGER HAS BEEN REFUSED VISA, YOU SHOULD MAKE DEMARCHE TO MFA, POINTING OUT INCONGRUITY OF SEEGER'S VISA REFUSAL WITH CSCE AND RECENTLY CONCLUDED EXCHANGES NEGOTIATIONS. REFUSING SBEGER PERMISSION TO TRAVEL WITH
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LAPO AND REPORT ON ITS ACTIVITIES IN CSSR WOULD BE DEFINITE

STEP BACKWARD, AND HARDLY CONDUCIVE TO IMPROVEMENT IN
BILATERAL ATMOSPHERE.

ROBINSON

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